

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR RAYMOND WALDMANN, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTREAL 944 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

DTD 04 JUNE QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTREAL 0944

FROM USREP ICAO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO - RESIGNATION OF BINAGHI, ELECTION OF PRES

REF: MONTREAL 0905 AND 0943

1. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING INFORMAL COUNCIL MTG JUNE 3, MOROCCO
REP ENGAGED USREP IN LONG, DELIBERATE CONVERSATION ABOUT HIS
THINKING ON BASIC PROBLEM OF COUNCIL PRESIDENCY. HE SAID THAT
LEBANON REP HAD SUGGESTED TO ARAB STATES AND OTHERS THAT THEY
MOVE QUICKLY AND SIMPLY ON KOTAITE ELECTION. MOROCCO REP SAID
THAT HE HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS GOVERNMENT AND THE
GOVERNMENTS OF TUNISIA AND ALGERIA (NORTH AFRICA COUNCIL MEMBER-
SHIP ROTATES). THEY FEEL THAT BINAGHI RESIGNATION IS UNFORTUNATE

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COMING ONLY 8 MONTHS AFTER ASSEMBLY RE-ELECTION BUT IN ANY CASE
REPRESENTS A MAJOR TRANSITION IN HISTORY OF ICAO WHICH REQUIRES
INDEPTH CONSIDERATION OF MANY ASPECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION.

2. HE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED NEED FOR LIMITATIONS ON TERMS OF OFFICE OF BOTH PRESIDENT AND SECGEN AND SAID THIS COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN DIFFERENT WAYS; (A) BY EACH COUNCIL ANNUALLY ELECTING ITS OWN PRESIDENT, OR (B) BY ROTATING PRESIDENCY AMONG STATES, OR (C) BY PLACING MAXIMUM LIMITATIONS SUCH AS THREE YEARS OR SIX YEARS ON TERMS OF OFFICE.

3. HE WENT ON TO SAY HOWEVER, WHAT WE REALLY NEED IS "ONE HEAD OF ORGANIZATION". POINTING OUT THAT PRESIDENT BINAGHI AND SECGEN KOTAITE WORK TOGETHER EXTREMELY WELL, HE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND ANOTHER BINAGHI AND PROBABLY NOT ANOTHER KOTAITE AND IT WAS LIKELY THAT THE TWO OFFICES MIGHT NOT WORK TOGETHER SO WELL IN FUTURE. USREP MADE POINT THAT ONE BASIC REASON FOR ICAO'S EFFICIENCY OVER YEARS, IT'S CONTINUING TECHNICAL AVIATION ORIENTATION AND IT'S EXCELLENT REPUTATION WITHIN UN WAS ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK WHICH PROVIDES FOR A

SEPARATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. USREP EMPHASIZED THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK IS CLEARLY SET FORTH IN CHICAGO CONVENTION ITSELF AND ANY BASIC CHANGE WOULD REQUIRE AN AMENDMENT TO CONVENTION. MOROCCO REP SAID HE REALIZED THIS BUT IF IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE MADE THEY SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN EVEN IF IT TOOK FOUR

OR FIVE YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH AND RATIFY CHANGES. MOROCCO REP

SAID HE COULD NOT GO ALONG WITH FACILITATING ELECTION OF KOTAITE AS PRESIDENT AND THAT ARAB STATES MIGHT HAVE OTHER IDEAS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN BECAUSE THE NAME OF DIALLO HAD COME UP IN THE AFRICAN/ARAB GROUP PARTICULARLY AS CANDIDATE FOR SECGEN TO REPLACE KOTAITE. HE SAID THIS WAS ONE REASON HE WOULD PREFER LIMITATIONS ON TERMS OF OFFICE: IF SOMEONE LIKE DIALLO OR AN UN-QUALIFIED POLITICAL CANDIDATE WENT IN, THERE SHOULD BE OPPORTUNITY FOR GETTING HIM OUT SOON. MOROCCO REP SAID HE WANTED USREP TO KNOW THAT WHEN MATTER COMES BEFORE COUNCIL WEEK OF JUNE 16, HE WILL GIVE STRONG STATEMENT AND BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANT REGARDING SLOW, IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION OF MATTER, INCLUDING A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL FRAME-
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WORK OF ICAO. HE REFERRED TO THE US POSITION ON ORGANIZATION AT 1968 BA ASSEMBLY WHEN WE SPONSORED A16-WP/142 (EX-MIN 11, 12 AND 15).

4. UKREP SAYS THAT NAME OF PIRSON (FORMER BELGIAN COUNCIL REP) IS BEING RUMORED FOR PRESIDENCY OR SECGEN. UKREP POINTED OUT THAT IF KOTAITE GOES INTO PRESIDENCY IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR PIRSON OR ANY OTHER FRENCH-SPEAKING CANDIDATE TO BECOME SECGEN. HE SAID THAT FRENCH COUNCIL REP IS ALREADY BUSY IN EUROPEAN GROUP TALKING OF FRENCH-SPEAKING CANDIDATES. UKREP SAID THAT HE (LIKE USREP) IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF FRENCH AND FRENCH-SPEAKING PERSONNEL IN ICAO ALTHOUGH HE INDI-

CATED THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP HE WOULD HAVE TO
"VOTE HIS INSTRUCTIONS" WHEN THE TIME COMES. HE DOES NOT ANTICI-
PATE BEING ABLE TO SUPPORT, GO ALONG WITH FRENCH-SPEAKING CANDI-
DATES FOR BOTH
PRESIDENCY AND SEC GEN.

5. BINAGHI HAS POINTED OUT TO SOME COUNCIL REPS CONFIDENTIALLY
THAT HIS MEMO OF MAY 26 IS NOT A FORMAL RESIGNATION. IT IS
ANTICIPATORY, BUT IF MATTER GETS OUT OF HAND OR ONLY UNDESIRABLE
CANDIDATES ARE AVAILABLE (A) HE WILL TIME HIS RESIGNATION AND
DEPARTURE APPROPRIATELY (PROBABLY MEANING FURTHER DELAY) AND
(B) COUNCIL IS NOT YET COMMITTED TO AN ELECTION WITHIN ANY
SPECIFIC TIME FRAME. BY WEEK OF JUNE 9 SEVERAL REPS
WILL
BEGIN TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS AND FIRM UP THINKING. WE WILL
HAVE BETTER IDEA OF LIKELY TURN IN COUNCIL. HOWEVER, BECAUSE
THERE IS NO PRECEDENT, MANY COUNCIL MEMBER STATES WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY RELY HEAVILY ON SUGGESTIONS AND DOCUMENTATION FROM
REPS, MONTREAL. USREP WILL REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS.
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